

13
1
NICOLAS BEADRY

Excavation Diary

Leskenwick Hill, Cornwall
May-June 1998

Scotland, July 1998

Mount Gabriel, E. Surrey
August 1998

The Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square, London
WE1H 0PY

3
SATURDAY, MAY 23^d
arrived in
Camelford,
Whitswell Holiday Park

Juliot's Well Holiday Park

Camelford, North Cornwall, PL32 9RF
Tel: 01840 213302 Fax: 01840 212700

Thank you for your booking and we look forward to welcoming you
Please retain this receipt and bring it with you on holiday
The duplicate should be returned to us when paying the final balance

All prices are inclusive of VAT at 17.5%

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MR N. Bagnall

U.C.L

—

ITEM	No.	Amount
STATIC CARAVANS		
Budget	54425	80.00

ed. 28
REF:

23-5-?

5
3
Sunday, May 24th

ON SITE

11:00 AM

We would have liked to get some
kind of "first impression" from
someone that had no previous
experience of the site. I did
not attend the meeting on
April 28th, but I had seen
pictures of the site, so I
already had an idea of it,
a naked landscape of green
hills, heavy clouds, stone, and
sheep. I did not expect wild
horses though.

Pictures don't tell the
scale of landscape, the look

and intimate relation to it. It is
wide, green, cold, windy...

end of tea break.

13-45

I had a promotion: I will
excavate at the "feature", LFF1,
to determine if it is cultural or
natural. I'm afraid there may
be loads of repeating between
this diary, the trench diary
and my pit field notebook...

My "first impression" is still
not clear. It is clearly not
neutral, after a site tour and
an almost ritual experience of

the stone row. For now, I am
more trying to find my way among
all these rocks, and to get my
ear used to English again after
coming back from Montreal!
End of lunch break.

Juniata Well Homestead Park
CAMELFORD
NORTH BRIDGWATER
PL 32 G.R.F.
ENGLAND.

Box - 01840 - 212700

Monday
25/05

Mike - Round House

geology - degraded granite
(A66)

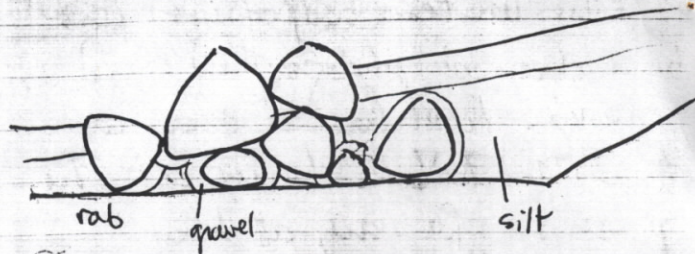
very acid soil \Rightarrow little
organic activity

Surface: organic material

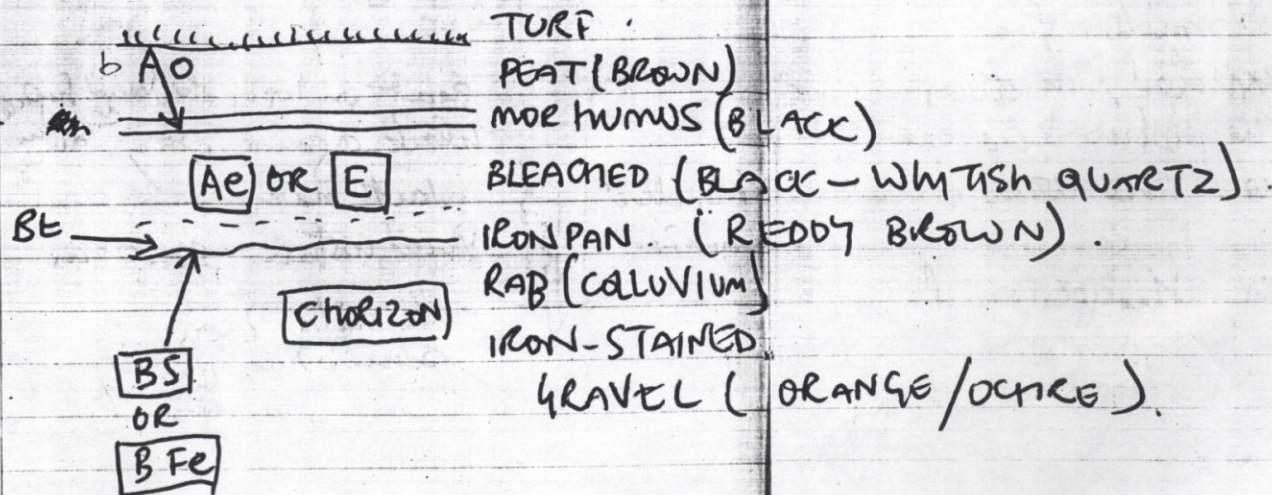
Peat on top of old land fill
black organic clay ≈ 10 cm
dark matrix +
granite crystals ≈ 10 cm,
reworked iron
sometimes many
layers

bleached
horizon

in stony areas,
intensive animal activity,
so there may be
clear burrows through
the rab.



PEATY GLEY PODZOL



(evening) The western half of CPP1 has been cleaned, photographed and planned. I will have a chance tomorrow to look closely at the plans; for now, all I can comment on are the stones as they appeared after cleaning.

(lots of new stones appeared; some are bigger or smaller than could be expected; in other words, the picture changes a lot when one works closely -

However the general picture is still a round "structure" ~~about~~ about the big stone.

TUESDAY 26/05

Shopping list -
 - coffee
 - batteries
 - mayonnaise
 - Zip Stamps

NO

	TBM	BS	FS	
1	1.050	0.050	1.035	(TBM on Stone as on plan)
2			1.355	
3			1.185	
4			0.610	NO BS FS
5			0.640	11 0.050 1.015
6			1.075	12 1.290
7			0.595	13 1.050
8			0.760	14 1.280
9			1.110	15 0.615
10			0.880	16 0.850
				17 0.955

N°	BS	ES
18	0.050	0.455
19		0.595
20		0.515
21		0.710
22		0.770
23		0.995 0.800
24		1.080 1.065

So far, only rocks and
peat, peat, peat.

A jet fighter flew around
twice this morning, filling
the whole landscape;
it is otherwise quiet

with only fairy and I,
sometimes a bird -
Very peaceful -
started wondering
Contexts: Context 1 is
peat above the structure
with 1 piece of slate as
finds, so far -

WEDNESDAY, 27 / 05

It is hard to appreciate the landscape when working face to face with a big stone.

And it doesn't even look at me, so I don't either.

Plays in the landscape: the stone row is turned into a golf course.

9
We are put under pressure: we will have about one hour and a half to complete the removal of the peat.

We have been slow, indeed, probably in part because of the quietness of our 2-person team in a desert of rocks.

I think I would need to walk the landscape a lot to understand something out of it. Walking in and out of the site is not enough, and lunch time is over a time too bad.

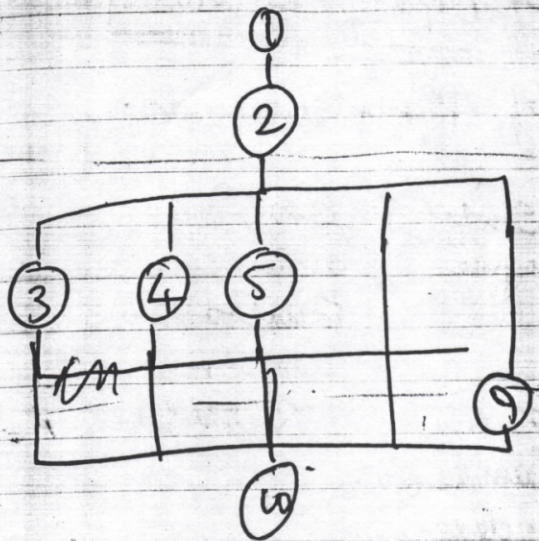
THURSDAY, 28/05

PP1 is being planned: Fay and
I voting again for Mike.

structure/phase II

make-up

phase I



at tea break in the afternoon,
we are back at our trench.

wrote quite a bit in the
trench diary about landscape and ^{sheep}

Friday, May 29th

off today -

- meat
- orange juice
- tissues
- sunscreen cream
- solar cream
- 20 p stamps
- lettuce
- onion
- tomatoes
- cucumber
- mushrooms

Saturday, May 30th

wish we were off.

horrible wind

25

13

SUNDAY May 31st

red rocks.

~~It seems~~ this
obviously recalls
Christo's work,
but without its
systematic dimension;
the rocks that are
singled out by
wrapping and
painting are, indeed,
singled out and
acquire a dimension,
a meaning they
would have never
thought they could have

Nice, but I think
it needs a few dark
blue rocks as well -
and a deeper red.

like perspective
with red and yellow
rocks; there is
one point at which
the last red one
cuts against the
sky -

If I were a rock I wonder
what I would think of this.
I would probably suffocate if I was
wrapped.

Necks wearing domed condoms?

Punt-flavoured stones?

Scratch'n' sniff?

MONDAY JUNE 1ST

Fay left me because
of a shortage of
bixuits

TUESDAY JUNE 2nd

great { heavy fog
Prokopher in the car
on the way.

lemon
tomatoes

very windy. my feet
are wet. yet another
rite tour. I wish I
were in the caravan
sitting by the heater.

Site tour

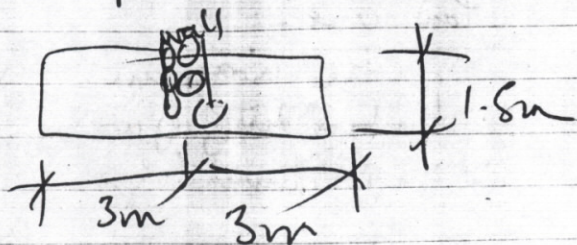
15
• wall ~~W~~ Settlement (Ash, Greeny)
questions concerning the
construction of walls -
sequence, location, use of
fields systems (lynchets?),
land use -

the way in which
the building of walls
implies sociology

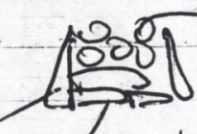
this wall is downslope;
not appropriate to look
for lynchets.
from the surface, it
looked well preserved, as if

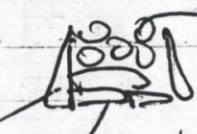
construction info could
be obtained

trench 6m x 1.5m -
considered as a good
constant size to
investigate both side
of soil accumulation



well construction (?)

sequence  rubble

2.  1. flat stones
although
against the flat stones

some stone are weathered
(found on the wall?), some
not (deport?), some
seem to have been
modified &.

sharp-edged piece of stone,
but flat: probably a
piece of debris.

W

Wall 2 Junction of 3 walls
- understand the sequence
the accretion of walls.
however, the walls are so
dispersed than it is

probably impossible to
get a sequence.

be-timed to reveal
structure (still at
planning stage)
rubble, remains of
orthostats, large stones
reused as wall → stone
flows on which the
walls accrete? natural
land divisions.

collected orthostats,
rubble (both collected
and dug-out; occurs
~~partially~~ in the natural

ground).

PF1

looks now very
different.

- Location between the 2
settlements - area
without wall systems;
rocks in boulder flows
- one dramatic
flow breaks against
a large stone; may
have been organized
in the back.
- The big stone - would have
been an orientation
stones stone-free

area in front of it.

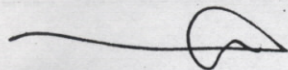
- exploration of the nature of stone-keepers
- raised area in front of it: would it be man-made, an enhancement of a natural phenomenon? possible field shrine (compulsive reaction from surveyors and anthropologists)

- after excavation:
curved "structure"
on peaty material -

below + in front of it, cobbles:
natural stream flow
⇒ it is stone-free in modern times only.

~~the~~ present state:
non-existing state: at no time was the structure visible at the same time than the cobbles.
the structure later than that cobbles² the pit flowed in.

pinkish stones - burned?
but ~~that about~~ modern fires?



Stone Circle (Dane & al)

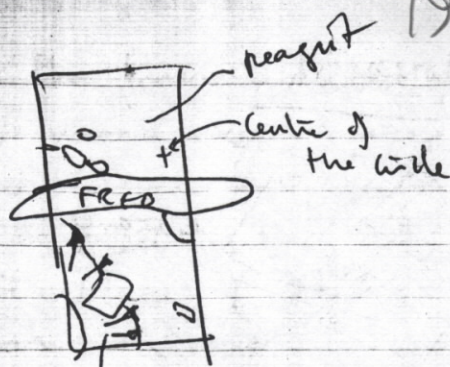
The central stone:

rests on
 kerne
 soil \Rightarrow not
 in that position
 when a BA circle
 was built (pettyhills is
 later than BA).

It is not a cartifact.

hole that relates to
 digging

antial
 trench



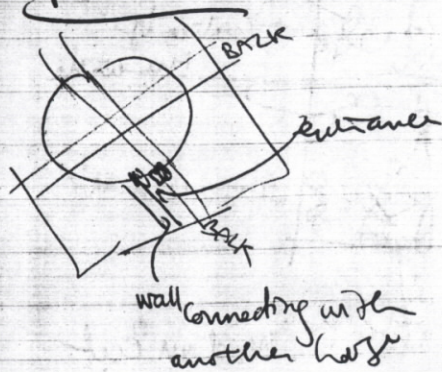
Stone hole? "modern" cut
 because it is filled
 with peat.

peripheral
 trench



not
 BA
 same
 hole
 (peat
 in)

House 39



Wall →
relationship between
the 2 houses? sequence

Passing in the entrance
⇒ relationship
with the world?

Inside the house - rubble
that may have sealed
the original floor, however,
there is much animal activity
in that area (rabbits
burrows)

Inside the house:
rubble abutting the
wall, partly under
the wall: partly natural?
this to be clarified.

Citron
tomato
Deo
Guendre
Pomage
Jaunbon
Vin

Personal contact details
deleted

one could
a trench, and use the
ones in it to build up the
wall -

section

Construction
of the wall



Saturday June 6th

where is a pick

Sunday June 7th

Site tour

Wall

- developed BA surface:
the gritty material

Wall: natural stones
(exposed \Rightarrow weathered)

fresh but unweathered
stone ~~stone~~ could be

cultural as well: one could
dig up a trench, and use the
stones in it to build up the
wall.

section

Construction
of the wall



Sharon

flat stone with
unweathered surface;
partly exposed when dug out?

LEFI natural or not?
- cleaned area

semi-circular
structure, clay-
supported, embedded
in a silty material
that flowed from
uphill.

cobble: natural, form a
bed on which large stones flow

23
Lounsbury. These morphologies
are expected some time before the
end of the month.

→ not really a humanly
constructed stone-pier area, but
or Ma striking contact.

pieces: slate, comes from
Camelford. Still
travelled across the roof in
recent ~~times~~ times.
flint flake: comes from Devon
Shelby (Loker).
characteristics → Neolithic
to BA (Sue) -
"feature": hearth? charcoal,
pink granite stones.

next steps ↓ trying
the E side of the trench
to plan it.

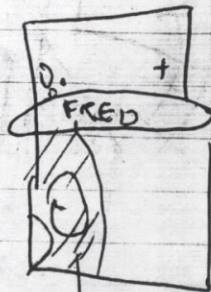
Boundary Junction ①
(on ~~top~~ ^{edge} of W settlement)

Boundary Junction 2
(edge of S settlement)
↓ changed structure difficult to
read except for orthostats.

11 stone circle
central trench

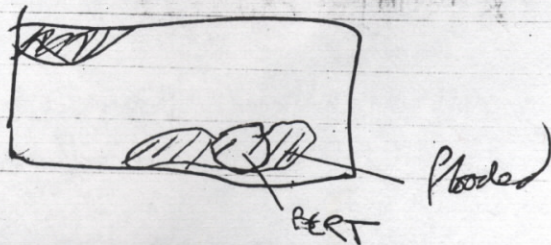
FRED - its orientation
is ~~not~~ ~~comparable~~ means

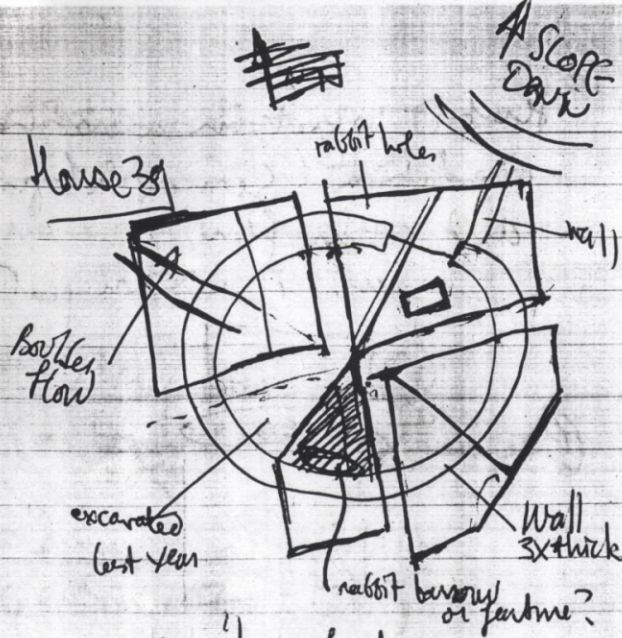
that it is not in a natural
orientation (geomorphologists
and stone flow)
and it sits on peat.



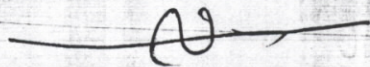
flooded hollow

external trench





slate : 1 very large piece
still in situ (the
one Simon and I found
yesterday) - 10cm or 6cm
greenish yellow, not blueish grey
print:
~~quartz~~ quartz (angular)



Back at LFF1,
Le-hung of Farkel half

rough fabric
with white dots;
fired from north

MONDAY, JUNE 8th

tea bags

tomatoes

eggs

mushrooms

margarine

RAINY
WINDY
COLD

let's call it a day

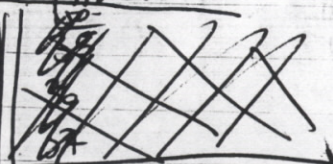
TUESDAY, June 9th

Very, very windy.

LEVELS on ⑥, Western half

TBM as last time

no	BS	FS
25	0.115	1.120
26		1.150
27		1.445
28		1.355
29		1.175
30		1.075
31		1.190
32		1.295
33		1.015
34		1.040



NO	BS	FS
35	0.115	1.065
36		0.960
37		1.060
38		0.955
39		1.120
40		1.380
41		1.420

WEDNESDAY June 6th

levels on (11) and (12),
feet, ~~1/2~~ 1/2 half.

No.	TBM	BS	FS
42		0.830	1.190
43			0.750
44			1.440
45			1.205
46			1.115
47			1.430
48			1.535
49			1.285
50			1.450
51			1.485
52			1.375

27

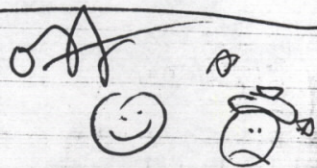
No	BS	FS
53	0.830	1.095
54		1.430
55		1.705
56		1.545
57		1.505
58		1.835
59		1.810
60		1.870
61		1.795
62		1.970

THURSDAY, June 11th

photo with the group
camera, on which each
of us must take
a shot.

I took #25,
the point of view of a
wrapped stone.

FRIDAY, June 12th



SATURDAY, June 13th

The day began late
because of the rain.

Mike is a Mad + kb

(Greek for "wanker")

SUNDAY, June 14th

Site tour

Wall 1 (BSA) hasn't
changed?

de-turfing: it is important
to keep straight ~~lines~~
lines and levels to
allow a perfect re-turfing
because if it is not
well re-turfed, that's
the first thing visitors
notice; moreover, if the
edges are not well-turfed,

29.

the animals tend to
~~the~~ remove turf.

FE1

The most charcoal
rich feature on site
so far.
analysis and species
identification will allow
some dating (different
species were on the wall
at different periods)
but it is not really safe
for radiocarbon-dating.

The structure looks less
structural on the E side
and after de-turfing ...
is it random rubble?

Wall - BS-B

Division wall going along
a contour \rightarrow different
information.

Wall within field
system more than a
boundary of the community
as a whole \rightarrow different function

lyncheting and building
up expected as a result
of agricultural activity

So far, under the
peat removed, there seems
to be a positive and negative

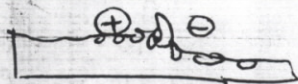
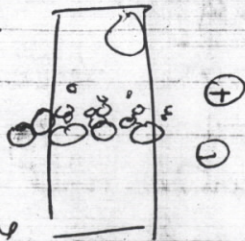
build-up.

the rubble

build-up:

indicates that the
fields were very
stony and were

not cleared \rightarrow pastoral fields?
planting within the stony?



Wall: BS-C

outer wall following
a contour.

Coarse wall. if there
were no agricultural
activity on the outer side,
we would expect no negative
lynchet.

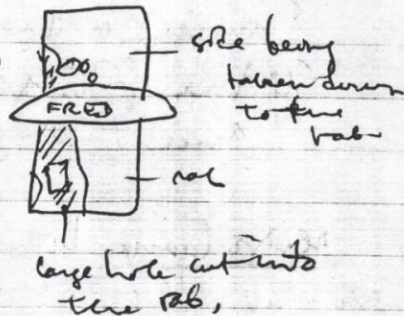


House 39

we are dealing
mostly with positive
architectural features.
great care is taken
when coming to the
natural & rab between
this is where the
negative features are
best preserved - however,
rabbit holes ~~and~~
~~others~~ are all over -

Stone circle

Central trench



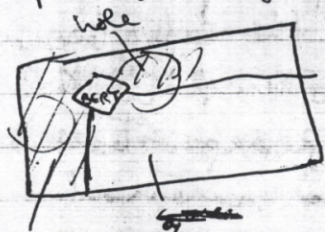
Difficult to get the
edges of the cuts, because the
filling material is the
same, redeposited
removed material.

hypothesis - the hole is
the dug-out trench
to pull it out and push
it standing.

difficult to see
if the cuts are
ancient or modern,
(if the paths are
ancient or modern)

periglacial trench

patchy iron pan



other hole with evidence of
(underwater?) re-deposition
holes: "modern" interventions

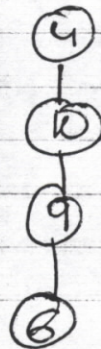
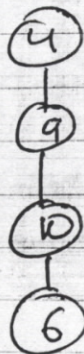
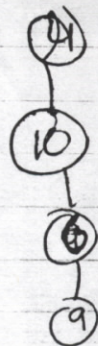
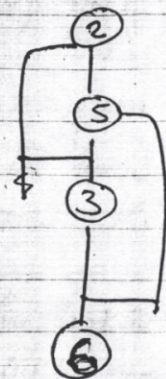
to use the stones as a resource?

~~no~~

Mike is a bit of a wanker.

MONDAY 15 June

short wrapped stones
guided tour.



SATURDAY, June 10th

Site notes

UFL

- final stage: many questions left.

- provides info on the natural landscape: a rare opportunity for geomorphologists to see under the surface

- structure, dated?

- charcoal, that may or may not be dated.

natural landscape: what seems stone-free is probably not always - the exposed

cobbles give an insight on a landscape of building rooms.

- if the stone (B) fractured off the big stone, this could be dated by weathering and lichen growth.

Wall

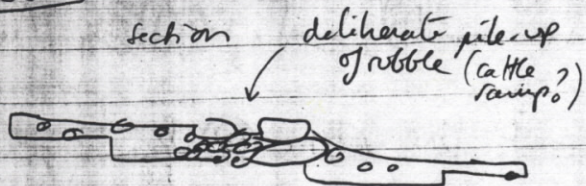
BS-B

- surprise: no build-up on the upslope part, no particular negative Lynchet on the other side.

- cobbles, as in UFL

- build up of stones uphill: natural flow or feature? (animal ramp)

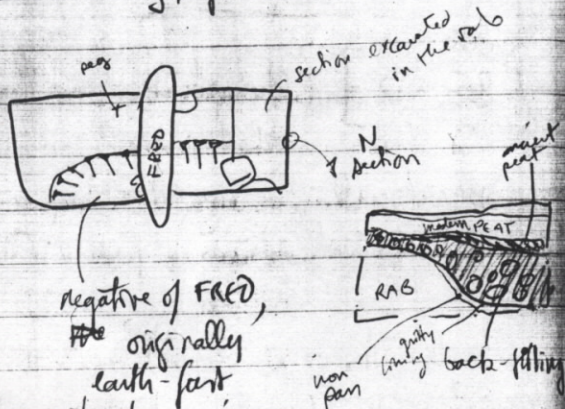
BS-C



Stone circle

NC

dry, for once!



negative of FRED,
the originally
earth-fast
(its long axis
along the slope, as geomorphology
would expect) -> it was

35

dig out and map

iron-pan:

There has been a soil development
in the feature left by the
digging out ~~and~~ of bed and
refilling, because there is
an iron pan.

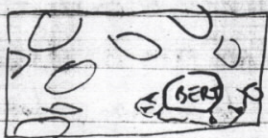
So how long does it take
here to have this iron pan?

when did the acidification
of Bodmin near started?

a pollen sample will be taken all
along this section.

no stone-hole so far; the
trench may have to be
extended next year.

second trench not resolved so far.
 this stone circle is already in
 a stony circle, which
 complicates things.



But has been
 smashed: fresh features
 (stone - nothing?)

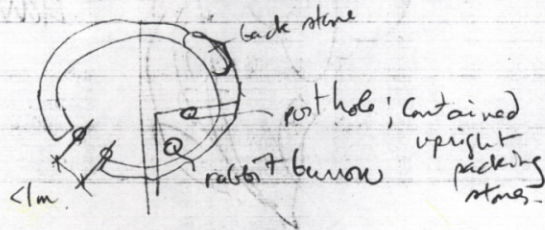
it is suggested that the
 hollow shape in which it
 stands was its original
 position, but its shape
 has changed since.

House 29

back-filling has begun
 in some parts of the N and E
 quadrants.

last chance to find features.

potholes either sides of
 the entrance - shallow features -
 series of potholes
 forming a circle?



still no hearth, but they are not always
 inside.

Wall construction: very variable
even within the same house.

natural stones enclosed in the
house and left in place



Nickym
ME A
flower.!

x.

Personal contact details
deleted

Personal contact details
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The Anthropologists on Lehenmika.

Chris Tilley's book on the
phenomenology of landscape

⊗ The landscape is not only
something you look at;
you experience it.

⊗ Anthropologists and
archaeologists tend to
be too site-oriented.

on Lehenmika: orientation of
the houses.

S Settlement → stone row
W Settlement → brown rocky

domestic space,
moved across landscape
nucleus of enclosures
canyon

phenomenology and sociology
of archaeologists and anthropology
on the field

39

panorhologists
on LFF

trying to identify which
stones behind the big stone
are natural and which are
not.

they immediately pointed
at the stones forming
a semi-circle:

- alignment (X slope)
- lack of compression
behind the big stone.
- dip angle
- imbrication:
non-imbricate
contact

diagnostic. (18) is indeed
a flaked off slab, but
according to the 'lopts', it
fell flat and not as it is;
it is therefore culturally
misplaced.

(19) is cultural as
well including the smaller
rubble except the stone that
has been removed which
lay on soil and its axis
parallel to the slope.

behind the big stone,
there is indeed a circular
stone -

Personal contact details
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Personal contact details
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41
Sunday, June 21st

LPL - measuring the dip
& orientation of
the stone w/ the
geomorphologists

H39. as Sat. 20th.

Back to London w/ Tony

Personal contact details
deleted